

**U.S. EPA SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD
Critical Ecosystem Assessment Model Review Panel
Adamkus Conference and Training Center – Lake Huron Room
U.S. EPA Region 5 Office, 12th Floor, Metcalf Building
77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60643**

June 29-30, 2004 Public

AGENDA

Tuesday, June 29, 2004

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| 9:00 - 9:10 a.m. | Meeting Convened by the Designated Federal Officer
Dr. Thomas Armitage |
| 9:10 - 9:15 a.m. | Welcome and Introductory Remarks
Dr. Anthony Maciorowski, Associate Director for Science
EPA Science Advisory Board Staff Office |
| 9:15 - 9:25 a.m. | Purpose of the Meeting and Review of the Agenda
Dr. Virginia Dale, Chair |
| 9:25 – 10:00 a.m. | Conceptual Approach and Proposed Uses of the Critical Ecosystem Assessment Model (CrEAM)
Ms. Jerri-Anne Garl, Director, Office of Strategic
Environmental Assessment, U.S. EPA Region 5 |
| 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. | Presentation of Charge Questions on the Critical Ecosystem Assessment Model
Ms. Jerri-Anne Garl, Director, Office of Strategic
Environmental Assessment, U.S. EPA Region 5 |
| 10:30 – 10:45 a.m. | BREAK |
| 10:45 – 11:30 a.m. | Architecture of Critical Ecosystem Assessment Model
Dr. Mary White, U.S. EPA Region 5 |
| 11:30 – 12:15 p.m. | Indicator Data Layers and Criteria Measures in the Critical Ecosystem Assessment Model
Dr. Charles Maurice, U.S. EPA Region 5 |
| 12:15 – 1:15 | LUNCH |
| 1:15 – 2:00 p.m. | Model Validation and Results
Dr. Mary White, U.S. EPA Region 5 |

2:00 – 2:20 p.m.

Public Comments

2:20 – 3:30 p.m.

Discussion of Charge Question 1 – Conceptual Framework

Dr. Virginia Dale and Panel

Charge Question 1.1: Is EPA use of the term “ecological significance” appropriate as EPA has defined it? Is there a better term for what is being rated?

Charge Question 1.2: Is it scientifically defensible to use these data sets as indicators of the three ecological criteria (diversity, sustainability and rarity) and to generate ratings of the criteria by compositing these indicators?

Charge Question 1.3: Is the nesting and compositing of multiple indicator data sets a scientifically valid framework to rate ecosystems?

3:30 – 3:45 p.m.

BREAK

3:45 – 4:45 p.m.

Discussion of Charge Question 2 – Methodology

Dr. Virginia Dale and Panel

Charge Question 2.1: Are the three criteria sufficient and reasonable for rating ecological significance as defined?

Charge Question 2.2: Are the indicator data sets sufficient and reasonable for rating the ecological diversity, self sustainability, and biological and land cover rarity, as defined?

Charge Question 2.3: Are there any relevant data sets consistently collected across the 6-state Region that should have been used but were not? If one or more such data sets exist, would the value they add to the CrEAM be likely to exceed the cost of adding them to the model?

4:45 – 5:30 p.m.

Summary of Discussion on Charge Questions 1 and 2

Dr. Virginia Dale and Panel

5:30 p.m.

RECESS FOR THE DAY

Wednesday, June 30, 2004

- 9:00 – 9:10 a.m. **Summary of Previous Day and Expectations for the Day**
Dr. Virginia Dale, Chair
- 9:10 – 10:30 a.m. **Discussion of Charge Question 3 – Application of the CrEAM to Environmental Decision-making**
- Charge Question 3.3: Please comment on the scientific defensibility of the use of CrEAM results to support broad based strategic planning and priority setting activities (e.g., identifying locations for geographic initiatives and EPA/State joint efforts) and program activities such as:
- Inspection
 - Permitting
 - Enforcement and cleanup
 - Reviewing grant proposals
 - Establishing reference context for ecological protection and restoration
- 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. **Summary of Discussion on Charge Question 3**
Dr. Virginia Dale, Chair
- 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. **Writing Session to Develop Responses to Charge Questions**
Panel
- 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. LUNCH
- 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. **Writing Session to Develop Responses to Charge Questions**
Panel
- 2:30 – 2:45 p.m. BREAK
- 2:45 – 3:00 p.m. **Summary of Panel Responses to Charge Questions**
Dr. Virginia Dale, Chair
- 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. **Planning Session to Discuss EPEC Ecological Risk Assessment Project**
Dr. Virginia Dale, Chair
- 4:00 p.m. **ADJOURN MEETING**